Attorney Ref.: 1442.033C

Remarks

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments, and consideration of the application, as amended.

By this Preliminary Amendment, the Applicant changed the Title to reflect the subject matter of the newly introduced claims; updated the reference to related applications; replaced the as-filed Abstract with a new Abstract that reflects the subject matter of the new claims, and replaced the as-filed claims with new claims.

No new matter was introduced and no amendments to avoid prior art were made by this Amendment.

The Applicant believes that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits of the application is requested.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, the Applicant's undersigned Agent invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

John Pietrangelo Agent for Applicants

Registration No. 39,331

September 5, 2003

HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.

5 Columbia Circle

Albany, New York 12203-5160 Telephone: (518) 452-5600

Facsimile: (518) 452-5579